

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NEWS LETTER

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MERRY
CHRISTMAS

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR



Wood duck

KEEP CALIFORNIA GREEN & GOLDEN

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
Sacramento

To the Men and Women of the Division of Forestry:

Another Christmas is here - a time when we take stock of the year just past and look to the future. There have been noteworthy accomplishments in every field of activity in the Division. There has been tragedy, and there has been happiness. The loyalty and devotion of the men, women and families of the Division make the strength of the organization.

To each of you I want to express my appreciation for a year of service to the ideals and obligations of our profession - service which went beyond the ordinary call of duty. It has been a privilege to work with you.

May this Christmas season be a happy one and the New Year successful. And so, as Tiny Tim observed, "God Bless us every one".

Sincerely,

De Witt Nelson

DeWitt Nelson, State Forester

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

The critical fire weather for the five Northern Districts that started on September 15th continued without a break until October 14th, a total of twenty-eight consecutive days of critical and extreme fire weather conditions.

During this period there were by District the following number of large fires reported to Sacramento:

<u>District</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>
I	23
III	3
V	2
VI	1

The above number of fires were reported to be caused from the following:

Lightning	1
Hunters	2
Incendiary	10
Control burn escapes	3
Truck exhaust	1
Railroad	1
Cause unknown	10

The fire score to October 20th compared to the previous five years to October 20th:

Number of Forest Fires

<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
2,382	1,780	2,412	2,322	2,251	2,152

Acres Burned

<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
281,488	100,019	133,710	258,946	141,413	116,218

On October 16th it appeared the fire season would soon come to a close as there were clouds and a threat of rain. Rain did not develop, however, and at the end of October the threat of forest fires is still with us.

The Forest Practice Committee for the Coast Range Pine and Fir District met in Redding on October 28, 1952, to consider alternate plans recently submitted by timber operators and to begin work on the revision of the Forest Practice Rules in that District. The Committee contemplates holding public hearings before the end of the year on the revision of the Rules in Eureka, Willits, Redding, and Yreka, so that timber owners and operators throughout the district may have an opportunity to express their views on all or any portion of the proposed Rules.

The Berkeley Forest Insect Laboratory has reported heavy epidemic losses in Jeffrey and ponderosa pine caused by pine beetles in the Thompson Peak area within Plumas County. Some 4,280 acres of the 20,000 acre total within the infestation unit are privately owned, principally by the Clover Valley Lumber Company of Loyalton. The Division is cooperating in the control of this infestation on private land by providing spotting crews to mark for immediate cutting the trees infested with beetles. The Clover Valley Lumber Company will salvage log the infested trees on their lands. Action is being taken by the Forest Service to effect control on federally owned lands through salvage logging this Fall.

A recent appraisal survey of the Miami Creek area in Madera and Mariposa Counties where control measures were conducted against the mountain pine beetle last spring indicated that a 60 percent reduction in the infestation was obtained. The Berkeley Forest Insect Laboratory reported this as encouraging but that additional control work is needed to clean up the infestation. Preliminary surveys indicate that there are some 916 infested trees now in need of treatment and that over half of them are on privately owned timberland with the balance on National Forest land. The Division is now working with the private landowner encouraging continuance of the control work and seeking private cooperation. The need of continuing the control work is most important from the standpoint of assuring the benefits derived from the control work done last spring. Continuance of this control program on a maintenance level should cause the infestation to subside.

The equipment building at Cloverdale Fire Control Station in Sonoma County is under construction and this will complete the building program for this station.

Materials are on order for Kelsey Cobb Fire Control Station in Lake County and Glen Ellen in Sonoma County and the building construction will soon be under way at these stations.

Work has been started on Alta Fire Control Station in Placer County and this station will be occupied by next fire season.

The paving of driveways and parking areas at both El Dorado Fire Control Station and Davis Warehouse and Nursery has been completed.

Materials are on order and excavation work for the abutments are under way for the new Kaweah Bridge in Tulare County; the old bridge was damaged by the 1950 flood and has to be replaced.

The old buildings at Alma Fire Control Station in Santa Clara County have been moved to the new site on the Los Gatos-Santa Cruz Highway.

Orange County map has been printed and delivered to District VI and it also may be mentioned that the supervisors in Orange County have decided to buy 500 maps for county use.

The balance of the 12 one-ton Willys four-wheel drive pickups were received and distributed to the field for service. One new Ford Sedan was received and delivered to District III.

The final field review was held in Santa Clara County covering the

pilot model of Ford Marmon Herrington crewtruck which is being built by Superior in San Francisco. Representatives from District IV and V were present. The pilot model has now been accepted and construction on the remaining fifteen units is under way.

A considerable amount of additional work has been done on the Darley-Willys pumping units. These units still have not proved entirely satisfactory and it is hoped that the majority of the faults are now being corrected.

MORE ABOUT PAUL BUNYAN

Paul Bunyan's Trained Ants are proving so successful that they may replace donkeys and tractors on the rugged slopes of the Sierras. Inspired by his success with Bees and Mosquitoes, Paul has developed a breed of Ants that stand six feet tall and weigh 200 pounds.

To overcome their habit of hibernating all Winter, Paul supplied the Ants with Macknaws made with three pairs of sleeves or legs. They eat nothing but Copenhagen Snuff. The Ants (or Uncles as they prefer to be called) can run to the Westwood shops with a damaged locomotive quicker than the Wrecking Crew can come out. They do not patronize bootleggers or require time off to fix their automobiles.

Lucy, Paul Bunyan's cow was not, so far as we can learn, related in any way to either Babe or Benny. Statements that she was their mother are without basis in fact. The two oxen had been in Paul's possession for a long time before Lucy arrived on the scene.

No reliable data can be found as to the pedigree of this remarkable dairy animal. There are no official records of her butterfat production nor is it known where or how Paul got her.

Paul always said that Lucy was part Jersey and part wolf. Maybe so. Her actions and methods of living seemed to justify the allegation of wolf ancestry, for she had an insatiable appetite and a roving disposition. Lucy ate everything in sight and could never be fed at the same camp with Babe or Benny. In fact, they quit trying to feed her at all but let her forage her own living. The Winter of the Deep Snow, when even the tallest White Pines were buried, Brimstone Bill outfitted Lucy with a set of Babe's old snowshoes and a pair of green goggles and turned her out to graze on the snowdrifts. At first she had some trouble with the new foot gear but once she learned to run them and shift gears without wrecking herself, she answered the call of the limitless snow fields and ran away all over North America until Paul decorated her with a bell borrowed from a buried church.

In spite of short rations she gave enough milk to keep six men busy skimming the cream. If she had been kept in a barn and fed regularly she might have made a milking record. When she fed on the evergreen trees and her milk got so strong of White Pine and Balsam that the men used it for cough medicine and liniment, they quit serving the milk on the table and made butter out of it. By using this butter to grease the logging roads when the snow and ice thawed off, Paul was able to run his logging sleds all summer.

The Red River Lumber Company

"Since I have my new automobile, I don't have to walk to the bank with my deposits."

"That's nice. Drive over now, eh?"

"No. I just don't make any."

"You don't have to stay awake nights to succeed. Just stay awake days."

Employer to beautiful blonde who has just filled in job application: "Miss Jones, under 'Experience' try to be a little more specific than just 'Oh Boy!'"

The American Eagle - November, 1952

ABOUT THE DIVISION

LETTER RECEIVED BY RANGER SILER

"Peter Dean Mosby, saved a little boy's life on October 25, 1952. He administered artificial respiration on the child after he was pulled from the river to believed to be dead. He did a great thing. I, myself feel that this boy is a great service to Bridgeville, and am proud to know he is a great and wonderful person."

Sincerely

s/ Mrs. Wesley Williams

Boy's name was Denise Thomas, 5826 Avila Street, El Cerrito, California.

CORRECTION

In the November issue of the News Letter, Page 9, Dispatcher Wyllie's name was shown as "Eyllie". We are sorry for the error.

EL DORADO COUNTY

Any Division of Forestry employee previously working in El Dorado County will be interested to read the following account:

Nicolai Nielsen, Rancher residing near El Dorado in El Dorado County, was fined \$500 on November 24 by Justice of the Peace J. B. Johnson following his conviction by a jury on a complaint filed by Assistant Ranger Wallace D. Wood charging Nielsen with resisting the lawful efforts of a forest fire fighting crew to suppress a forest fire started on his property when a deer hunter accidentally shot down a 1,000 volt power line.

R. R. Higgins
Fire Prevention Officer

KINGS COUNTY

This last month in Kings County has been one of transition or change over from restless and sleepless nights spent in praying for relief from the

heat and asking for a little moisture.

This moisture is fine - about .36 of an inch in the past week. Also a change is taking place in work habits; we hear the sound of hammers and saws, yes, four new buildings must be constructed before another fire season, namely, a new station on the east side of the county, "Kit Carson" it is to be called; also replace an old station at Kettleman City.

Most of the personnel have taken vacation and settled down for the winter.

"Cotton" is the word now - pickers every where and some of them setting fires each day. We need legislation badly to have "mechanical pickers" mentioned along with other harvest machinery in our law as to spark arresters.

I have a thought I would like to mention to all coworkers - Do you think if all of us in our different counties could start a whispering campaign towards clearing up trash thrown along our highways, it might help? It is embarrassing to write Fire Permits for a rancher and at the same time have a fire start along the farm road or State highway, in trash thrown and left along our roadsides, but enough of this. I was only dreaming!

Merry Christmas and best wishes to everyone throughout the Holidays.

C. E. Lindley
Associate State Forest Ranger

NEWS FROM DISTRICT IV

Mountain Man Dan Dotta, Technician at Mt. Home State Forest, has had an enviable reputation for judging weather and getting out of the high country before the storms but lost all credit this year when bulldozers had to help his crews some twelve miles in 30" of snow. Dan is now gathering up "loose ends" at District Headquarters in Fresno.

That popular Associate Ranger in Western Fresno County, Jack Hansen, surely does need glasses! Recently he had a heated argument with a waitress in Avenal when he insisted the menu said "Grilled Tomato Juice." The menu actually offered the product "chilled" but Jack couldn't see it.

J. E. Wright, known better as Jess Wright, who recently came to Forestry as Engineer, is not new to California. In the immediate past years he has been surveying for mining interests in Arizona and New Mexico, but has returned to California where we hope he stays for a long time. This State has really been his home for over 10 years and like most others who leave must return home. California must have something after all.

Christine Wilcock, Intermediate Clerk, who is filling in temporarily on radio duty, has one pet peeve. "Oh! if they wouldn't all try to talk at once!"

After the District Forestry party "Past Master Observer" Dick Rafferty was heard to comment, "These Forestry wives are some dancers--even an old guy like me enjoyed myself."

No one represented the Sacramento office this year at our party. Seems as if that bunch always miss the real good times.

The Deputy made a wonderful speech at the party--one of the shortest ever!

DISTRICT IV ANNUAL PARTY

The annual District IV party was held on November 14th at the American Legion "509" Club, Fresno, with a very nice turnout in spite of the fact it wasn't a particularly arid evening. (We had our first rainy weather of the season that day.)

Dancing started at 8:30 p.m. - everyone working up quite an appetite this way for the buffet supper served later.

During the supper, J. D. Rafferty acted as "Master of Ceremonies" introducing the special guests; Byron Beattie, Supervisor of the Sierra National Forest; and Chief Gayle Cogger of the Fresno Fire Department. Deputy C. E. Metcalf gave a very short and appropriate speech.

During the dancing, we noticed our new Forestry Trainee, Robert Rappleye, and Driver Jess Ross, Fresno County, are quite the "jitter-bugs." They are not only good, but should win a prize for endurance.

Let's not forget to mention Dick Rafferty who is very versatile when it comes to the art of dancing. He even rhumbas!! Speaking of rhumbas - Arthur Murray's best can well be put to shame by Foreman and Mrs. Al Rosso of Fresno County.

Matter of fact, Driver Luther Routt of Tulare County became so engrossed in practicing a new step or two that he financed the band for an extra hour - so at 2 a.m. our party for 1952 came to a successful close.

We must admit, however, that we missed the representative from the State Forester's Office who usually attends our party - could be that the tempo of last year's party was too much!

The committee in charge of the party arrangements was headed by J.D. Rafferty, Fire Prevention Officer, and Wm. Jacobson, Assistant Deputy State Forester; and were assisted by Orville Ingram, Assistant Ranger, Fresno County; Janice Benita, Stenographer, Tulare County; Phyllis Labat, Typist-District Office; and Aletta Bristow, Stenographer, District Office. (Thanks, Aletta, for a very nice job on the invitations.)

Phyllis D. Labat
Intermediate Typist-Clerk

NEWS FROM DISTRICT IV

During the latter part of November a maintenance control job was done on the Miami Creek Zone of Infestation. Through the use of string lines, put up by the spotters, 100% coverage was assured, and the time of spotting and locating trees by the control crews was cut in half.

The control work was done by CYA from Coarsegold under the supervision of James Stokes. The work was progressing extremely well when it ground to a sudden halt with 3 ft. of new snow. The job is now within 2 days of completion, but must wait until the snow leaves next May.

Fritz Konklin
Forestry Work Project Foreman

BIG TREE CROSS SECTION TO SWEDEN

During the month of November, a cross section of a Sequoia Gigantea tree was cut on the Mt. Home State Forest and shipped to the Museum of Natural History in Stockholm, Sweden.

The size of the cross section was 12' 6" in diameter and average thickness of 32". It was necessary to split into two sections the specimen for transporting purposes. Each section was crated and loaded on a transport and shipped to San Pedro for loading of a Swedish ship on its way to Sweden. The overall weight of the cross section was 10 tons.

Dan Dotta
Forest Technician

LETTER FROM MR. PECKINPAH, WESTERN FAIRS ASSOCIATION TO
RANGER GEORGE BRITTON

"Mr. Russell E. Pettit, Manager of the Santa Clara County Fair at San Jose, has advised our Fire Prevention Committee that your cooperation and assistance in furthering the public interest in Fire Prevention was very effective during his fair. Manager Pettit greatly appreciated your interest and cooperation and we should like to have you know, also, that our Western Fairs Association Fire Prevention Committee is grateful for your assistance.

"The fairs of Western United States and Canada are very definitely concerned in the need for a better public understanding of the importance and necessity of preventing forest fires. Annual losses in timber and forage and the resultant damage in eroded soils have a very definite influence on agriculture and industry and consequently, it is a real concern to the fairs of the West, which truly demonstrate the products of agriculture and industries in their encouragement of improvement and progress towards a better way of living.

"Your continued interest, cooperation and assistance in the programs of County and District fairs will aid the efforts of this Association in developing better fairs and it will aid our Fire Prevention Committee and the managers of fairs in your area in furthering the public interest in Fire Prevention."

STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Warren T. Hannum, Director

Division of Forestry News Letter

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to Forestry and to the experiences of Division personnel.

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE

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